SPIDER ISLAND
GAGE DIAZ D'ARMATA
PLUS A BONUS STORY FEATURING SPIDER-GIRL
004
SECRET WARS
MARVEL

SECRET WARS

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!
THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS
TO SAVE IT! NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD:** A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL
OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM! EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

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ON SPIDER-ISLAND, THE SPIDER-QUEEN REIGNS SUPREME, RULING HER DOMAIN WITH AN ARMY OF SPIDER-MINIONS. NOT EVERYONE IS CONTENT WITH HER RULE, THOUGH, AND AGENT VENOM (A.K.A. FLASH THOMPSON) HAS RALLIED A CONTINGENT OF MILDLY MUTATED HEROES TO FORM A RESISTANCE. IN THEIR LATEST RAID ON AN A.I.M. FACILITY, THEY FREED RENOWNED GENETICIST STEGRON THE DINOSAUR-MAN AND LOCATED AN UNINFECTED PETER PARKER!

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THE RESISTANCE WAS AMBUSHED BY A GROUP OF SPIDER-MAN'S EX-GIRLFRIENDS, ALL MUTATED INTO SPIDER-MINIONS OF THE QUEEN, WITH THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING SPIDER-MAN BACK INTO HER CLUTCHES! THE RESISTANCE WAS ABLE TO RELIEVE SOME OF THEIR SYMPTOMS, BUT NOT BEFORE TRACKING DEVICES EMBEDDED IN THEIR EXTRA ARMS LED THE QUEEN'S ARMY STRAIGHT TO THEM, LEAVING IRON MAN NO CHOICE BUT TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF SO THE RESISTANCE COULD SURVIVE!

SPIDER-ISLAND

PART FOUR: INTELLIGENT DESIGN

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AND DON'T MISS THE CONTINUING ADVENTURE OF MAYDAY PARKER–SPIDER-WOMAN–BY THE ORIGINAL SPIDER-GIRL TEAM!

SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE AND STEVE DITKO

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The ruins of Avengers Mansion.
"IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE QUEEN'S ARMY FINDS US."
Sub-basement Three: Weapons testing and research.
EVEN DOWN HERE, IT'S NOT SAFE. THIS IS ONE OF THE FIRST PLACES THEY'LL LOOK, ONCE THEY'VE MOPPED UP OUR OLD BASE.
LET THEM, CAROL. WE ONLY NEED TO BE HERE LONG ENOUGH TO GET OUR EQUIPMENT COMBAT READY. THEN...
...WE TAKE THE FIGHT TO HER.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. BUT WE JUST LOST IRON MAN... AND TOO MANY OTHERS.
MAYBE THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO STRIKE BACK. MAYBE WE SHOULD GO UNDERGROUND, REGROUP...
JESS HAS A POINT, FLASH.
THE QUEEN'S SPIDER-FOLK'LL BE ON HIGH ALERT. YOU'RE THE MILITARY TACTICIAN, NOT ME...
BUT YOU'VE BEEN BONDED WITH THE SYMBIOTE, WHAT, CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THIS STARTED? I KNOW HOW IT AFFECTS PEOPLE. YOU GET MORE AGGRESSIVE...VIOLENT...
THAT USED TO BE TRUE.
IT WAS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE TO KEEP FROM LOSING CONTROL. BUT SINCE THE QUEEN TOOK OVER...
...IT'S LIKE THE SYMBIOTE KNOWS I NEED A CLEAR HEAD. I DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT IT ANYMORE. THIS ISN'T IT TALKING, SPIDEY. IT'S ME.
WE'LL NEVER BE BETTER POSITIONED. WE WIN NOW...OR DIE.
I'M THE ONE STRUGGLING WITH A FERAL SIDE NOW. MY JUDGMENT'S NOT WHAT IT WAS. BUT SHARON AND I HAVE BEEN AROUND SOLDIERS ALL OUR LIVES.
ONLY ONE OF US HAS BEEN ABLE TO KEEP THEIR HEAD ON STRAIGHT SINCE THE OUTBREAK.
AGENT VENOM IS OUR BEST SHOT. WE'RE WITH HIM... WHATEVER HE WANTS TO DO.

WAIT. PETE...SPIDEY...YOU WERE MY INSPIRATION. IF YOU'VE GOT DOUBTS--
NO. CAP AND SHARON ARE RIGHT, AND SO ARE YOU.
WE GOT OUT WITH OUR MOST IMPORTANT EQUIPMENT. WE CAN'T REPLACE IT... OR LET THE QUEEN FIND OUT WHAT IT IS.
FOR ME, COMING OUT OF STASIS TO THE WORLD LIKE *THIS*... I'M STILL SHAKEN UP. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KEPT THE FIGHT FOR HUMANITY ALIVE THROUGH IT ALL.
YOU DON'T NEED HEROES OR INSPIRATIONS ANYMORE, FLASH. YOU *ARE* ONE.
THIS IS A STEALTH SUIT I WAS WORKING ON BACK AT HORIZON. NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO FINISH TWEAKING IT... UNTIL NOW.
IT'LL GIVE YOU PROTECTION AGAINST THE SPIDER-QUEEN'S SONIC ATTACK. I'M NOT SURE OF ITS LIMITS, BUT IT'S SOMETHING, AT LEAST. AN ADVANTAGE YOU DIDN'T HAVE LAST TIME.
I'LL KEEP IT UNDER THE SYMBIOTE UNTIL I NEED IT. EXPLOIT THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.
WE'RE STILL FACING A HUGE DISADVANTAGE IN NUMBERS.
BAH. HULK WILL SMASH THEM ALL.
I APPLAUD THE SENTIMENT, BUT A SPIDER-ARMY MIGHT BE TOO MUCH EVEN FOR *YOU*, BIG GUY.

NOTHING IS TOO MUCH FOR HULK!
YEAH, UH, LET'S PUT A PIN IN THAT. WHAT WE NEED IS A DISTRACTION. SOMETHING TO PULL THE QUEEN'S FORCES AWAY FROM AVENGERS TOWER.
THAT'S WHY FLASH SEARCHED OUT STEGRON. SO HE COULD RE-CREATE ONE OF THE MORE BIZARRE SITUATIONS I EVER TACKLED...ASSUMING HE CAN.
THEN THERE'S JUST ONE MORE THING TO COVER. MARY JANE, BETTY, CARLIE--
STOP RIGHT THERE, FLASH. NO WAY ARE WE RUNNING OFF TO COWER SOMEWHERE WHILE THE MENFOLK FIGHT THE MONSTER THAT ENSLAVED US.
MY RETRO-GENERATION RAY ISSS READY, MAMMALS.
STEGRON ISSS READY.
OF COURSE NOT. YOU'VE GOT DOC CONNORS' LIZARD FORMULA IN YOU NOW. I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE UP FOR THE FIGHT.
FACE IT, TIGER.
YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF AN ARMY.

The Museum of Natural History.
"MY QUEEN, YOUR CHILDREN AT THE MUSEUM HAVE FAILED TO REPORT."
The Queen's Castle.
Formerly Avengers Tower.
I CAN'T PICK UP ANY THOUGHTS IN THE BUILDING. SO THAT IS WHERE THEY'VE GONE TO GROUND. OF COURSE...THERE'S A SUBWAY STOP BELOW, THEY MUST HAVE FLED STRAIGHT TO IT.
I'M DISPATCHING OUR ENHANCED TROOPS FOR A DIRECT ASSAULT. I WANT CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN ALL TUNNELS, AND FORMING A CORDON AROUND THE BUILDING.
NONE CAN ESCAPE. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR, JAMESON?
YES, YOUR MAJESTY. THE AREA'S BEING SURROUNDED AS WE SPEAK.

"ANYONE STILL INSIDE IS TRAPPED."
MY KIN. HOW I'VE MISSSED YOU.
HOW IT PAINS ME TO SSSEE YOU LIKE THIS...YOUR SSSTRIPPED REMAINS DISPLAYED AS ENTERTAINMENT FOR MUCUS-STAINED APE CHILDREN.
NO MORE.
RISE, BROTHERS! AND TAKE BACK WHAT IS YOURS.
RISE!
THOOOM
MY QUEEN, WE'VE ARRIVED. I THINK THEY HEARD US. THERE'S A SOUND FROM INSIDE...A RUMBLING.
BUT DON'T WORRY. WE'RE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING THEY CAN THROW AT--

DIE, INSECTS!

THE DINOSAURS RECLAIM THIS WORLD!

HRROOONN!

STEGRON! HE'S REANIMATED THE DINOSAURS. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, HE DID THIS ONCE BEFORE*--
AND IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO YOU TO MENTION IT AFTER THEY TOOK HIM FROM US?
*IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #165-166! -DINOSAUR DEV
IMBECILE!
WHACK
M-MY QUEEN, IT'LL BE FINE.
YOUR CHILDREN ARE CONVERGING ON THE SCENE. THEY'LL OVERCOME THE REPTILES THROUGH SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS.
NOT THE POINT, FOOL. GIRD YOURSELF FOR BATTLE. THE DINOSAURS ARE JUST A DISTRACTION.
THE REAL FIGHT IS HERE.
LIZARD-HULK SMASH!
THBOOOM

GRAAAGGH!
SHREEEEE
SPIDER-MAN! OF COURSE YOU'RE IN CAHOOTS WITH THE RESISTANCE NOW!
NO OFFENSE, JONAH, BUT THIS JUST ISN'T AS FUN WHEN I CAN'T SEE YOUR FACE ALL RED AND VEIN-POPPY.
SHE'LL ALREADY HAVE SENT OUT A MENTAL CALL FOR BACKUP! OUR ONLY CHANCE TO PUT HER DOWN IS IF WE DO IT FAST!
ROGER THAT.
LET'S SEE IF I CAN SHUT HER UP, TOO.
SPTANG
HNGH!

NOW! BEFORE SHE--
SHREEE
SYSTEM FAILURE--
NNN...
...NNNOT...
...THIS TIME.

BLAM BLAM BLAM
ACCH!
THWIP
THWIP
NOW! HURRY!
GRR AA AR!
DON'T LET UP!

WAIT, ARE THEY GOING TO--?
KILL HER? I'M NOT SURE WE HAVE A CHOICE.
THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER OPTION.
WHATEVER DECISION WE REACH, IT MUST BE MADE QUICKLY.
EASY. SHE'S DOWN.
AGENT VENOM? DO WE FINISH HER?
I...

TAKE IT FROM SOMEONE WHO'S TOUCHED HER MIND. THERE'S NO OTHER WAY. SHE IS CRAZY...AND UTTERLY RUTHLESS.
THAT'S NOT HOW I DO THINGS, CARLIE. WE'RE BETTER THAN THAT. MJ, TELL HER--
CARLIE'S RIGHT. THINGS HAVE CHANGED, TIGER. EVERYTHING'S CHANGED.
TH-THAT'S THE NATURE OF WAR-- ADAPTING TO HORRIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES, DOING WHAT'S REQUIRED, AND TRYING TO LOSE AS LITTLE OF YOURSELF AS POSSIBLE.
OFTEN... THAT'S MORE THAN YOU'D LIKE.
THAT'S THE CHOICE WE HAVE TO MAKE, PETE...AND NOT JUST FOR OURSELVES. FOR EVERYONE. CHANGE OR DIE.
NOT... CHANGE.
KRRK
KRRK
EVOLVE.
SHLLRRDPKRKKK

I CAN EVOLVE TOO.
OKAY, I DON'T FEEL GUILTY ANYMORE...
Concluded in two weeks!

LISTEN UP, EVERYONE. MY NAME IS HOPE PYM. I USED TO BE CALLED THE RED QUEEN, BUT NOW...
I AM The AVENGERS!
TOM DEFALCO & RON FRENZ: script, plot & pencils
SAL BUSCEMA: finished art
ANDREW CROSSLEY colors
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NICK LOWE editor
THANKS TO ENTHRALLA'S ABILITY TO MANIPULATE PERCEPTIONS--
--WE OWN YOU IDIOTS.
HAPPY TO HELP, HOPE.
ARRGH! HEAD'S STILL ON SPIN CYCLE.
SPIDER-SENSE NEARLY FRIED MY BRAIN--

--NEED TO PLAY POSSUM A LITTLE LONGER.
WHO DO I KNOW CRAZY ENOUGH TO TAKE ON THE AVENGERS?
RRRRRRING
CAFÉ INDIGO
EST 1998
ANYTHING URGENT, NORMIE?
AFRAID SO, BEN.
MAYDAY NEEDS REINFORCEMENTS AT AVENGERS COMPOUND.
PLEASE TELL ME SHE'S HELPING THE AVENGERS.
WISH I COULD, PHIL.
+SIGH+ I'LL ALERT THE OTHERS.
OTHERS?
YOU MEAN SHE RELIES ON OTHERS TO HELP HER?!
ALL THE TIME.
YOU WANT HER TO SHARE HER RESPONSIBILITIES, BEN...
"...THIS IS HER SHARING."
NOT ONLY WERE THE AVENGERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF MY PARENTS--
--YOU, MR. LANG, HAD THE UNMITIGATED GALL TO TAKE OVER MY DAD'S ANT-MAN IDENTITY.
THE PENALTY IS DEATH!
DON'T DO THIS, HOPE.
LOSING YOUR PARENTS WAS A TRAGEDY.
BUT YOU'VE BECOME SO OBSESSED WITH HOW THEY DIED, YOU'VE FORGOTTEN HOW THEY LIVED.
I KNEW YOUR FATHER.
HE MADE SOME TERRIBLE MISTAKES, BUT NEVER STOPPED TRYING TO ATONE FOR THEM.
HE BELIEVED IN REDEMPTION.
IN SECOND CHANCES!
YOU'RE BORING ME, LANG.
SABRECLAW, SHRED HIS JUGULAR.

SORRY TO PLAY SPOILER--
--BUT I ALSO KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO LOSE YOUR DAD.
CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO MY FRIEND CASSIE.
TWAAAK
WHY IS SPIDER-GIRL FREE?
UHHH... DON'T KNOW.
AND I THINK SHE CALLS HERSELF SPIDER-WOMAN NOW.
THAT MIGHT MATTER FOR HER OBITUARY.
I JUST WANT HER DEAD!
YOU HEARD THE BOSS LADY.
LET'S SEE SOME ASSEMBLING, AVENGERS.
Y'KNOW, UNCLE BEN COULD BE RIGHT.
MAYBE I HAVE BEEN OVERDOING THIS WEB THING.
I SHOULD BE SPENDING MORE TIME WITH MY FAMILY... MY FRIENDS...AND, ESPECIALLY, MY BOYFRIEND, WES.

LIKE LANG SAID, I SHOULD FOCUS ON HOW DAD LIVED.
HE BALANCED HIS PERSONAL LIFE WITH A CIVILIAN CAREER--
--AND A HEALTHY SHARE OF WEB-SWINGING.
I NEED TO CELEBRATE DAD'S LIFE--
--INSTEAD OF AGONIZING OVER HIS DEATH.
WHEW! JUST REALIZED I'M ON AUTOPILOT.
FIGHTING ON PURE INSTINCT.
ACTUALLY HAVING FUN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS.
OR AS MUCH AS ONE CAN HAVE WHILE BATTLING MIND-CONTROLLED FRIENDS.
I'M JUST LUCKY THEY'RE FIGHTING LIKE INDIVIDUALS INSTEAD OF WORKING LIKE A...
UH-OH!
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE FINALLY STARTING TO COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS.
YIKES!

DID SOMEONE ORDER A PIZZA?
LADYHAWK, KAINE--TO THE LEFT!
RAPTOR, GOBLIN--GO RIGHT!
THE BUZZ AND I WILL PLOW THE CENTER!
WHO MADE YOU BOSS, DARKDEVIL?
WHO CARES?!
YAY TEAM!
WHERE DID THESE LUNATICS COME FROM?
IT DOESN'T MATTER, HOPE. I CAN ENSLAVE THEM ALL.
YOU DO THAT, BUT FIRST...
...PLEASE COMMAND CASSIE LANG TO EXECUTE HER FATHER.
I LOVE THE IRONY.
SWEETHEART, IT'S ME.
CASSIE, NO!
NOOOOO!
YOU'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOURSELF.
I...
KA-ZAKKK
To Be Concluded!